

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

TRSE-00 OMB-01 FAA-00 NEA-10 IO-12 RSR-01 /119 W
----- 090537

R 021420 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9872

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0405

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS LY

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND LARAF ATTACK ON U. S. AIRCRAFT

1. LOCKHEED MANAGER ROOKER CALLED ON ECONOFF APRIL 2 AND REQUESTED BRIEFING ON STATE OF USG/ LARG RELATIONS. ROOKER EXPLAINED THAT LOCKHEED C-130 SERVICE AND TRAINING CONTRACT, DUE FOR RENEWAL APRIL 1, HAD BEEN APPROVED BY LARAF MARCH 17. OVER PAST TWO WEEKS, HOWEVER, LARAF NEGOTIATORS HAVE RAISED MINOR POINTS OF CONTENTION AND, DURING PAST WEEK, HAVE SIMPLY NOT BEEN AVAILABLE. CONTRACT INVOLVES 30 LOCKHEED PERSONNEL FOR TWO YEARS (WITH OPTION FOR THIRD) AT COST OF \$2.5 MILLION PER YEAR.

2. ECONOFF SAID BASIC FACTS OF INCIDENT WERE IN US PRESS AND, THOUGH INCIDENT HAD OBVIOUSLY STRAINED US/ LAR RELATIONS, HE AWARE OF NO FACT WHICH WOULD INDICATE EITHER SIDE CONTEMPLATED DIPLOMATIC BREAK.

3. ROOKER, WHO IS OLD AND EXPERIENCED HAND IN LAR, SAID HE HAD SURMISED AS MUCH BUT WANTED TO MAKE SURE THERE NO NEW IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS BECAUSE HE PLANNED MAKE STRONG EFFORT SECURE CONTRACT SIGNING APRIL 3. HE STRESSED THAT PRIOR TO C-130 INCIDENT, LARAF HAD
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OKAYED LANGUAGE OF CONTRACT. WHILE RELATIONS BETWEEN LOCKHEED PERSONNEL AND LARAF AT ' UQBA BIN NAFI HAD BEEN COOL SINCE C-130 INCIDENT, THERE HAD BEEN SIMILAR OCCASIONS IN THE PAST AND HE WAS NOT OVERLY DISTURBED BY THIS ATMOSHPERE. THUS, HE UNABLE TO SWALLOW EXPLANATION THAT SIGNERS " TOO BUSY" BECAUSE IT TAKES ONLY FIVE MINUTES TO SIGN A DOCUMENT.

4. ROOKER SAID THAT AFTER ATTEMPTED DOWNING OF C-130, THERE HAD BEEN A FLURRY OF RUMORS AMONG LARAF PERSONNEL, ALMOST ALL OF THEM INCORRECT. ROOKER PERSONALLY PERSUADED THE CHANCES WERS " TEN TO ONE" THE MIRAGE PILOTS HAD BEEN EGYPTIANS BECAUSE THERE IS " ALMOST NO LIBYAN COMBAT- READY IN MIRAGE AIRCRAFT." HE ALSO SAID MOST LIBYANS, INCLUDING LARAF PILOTS HIS PEOPLE HAD SPOKEN TO, DISAPPROVED OF LIBYAN ATTACK ON U. S. PLANE.

5. ROOKER PROMISED CONTACT EMBASSY APRIL 3 TO DISCUSS OUTCOME OF HIS ATTEMPT TO GET SIGNATURE OF CONTRACT. JOSIF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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